

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. An apparatus for controlling an electronic device, comprising:
a plurality of finger-shaped sleeves that are coupled together and are each
5 worn on a different finger of a hand, wherein at least one of the plurality of
sleeves has at least one control element for operating an electronic device using
finger movements.
2. The apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a
10 microphone coupled to one of the plurality of sleeves, wherein the electronic
device is operated using a combination of finger movements and voice
commands.
3. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one
15 control element is a touch-sensitive touchpad.
4. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one
control element is a button.
- 20 5. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus
operates the electronic device remotely.

6. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus is coupled to the electronic device by a cable.

7. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic device
5 is a computer.

8. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the at least one control element is a motion-sensitive pointer for moving a cursor on a display device.

9. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic device is used to operate a television.

10. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic device
15 is used to operate a household appliance.

11. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the electronic device is used to operate a computer.

12. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus
20 includes communication means and a speaker enabling the apparatus to be used as a telephone.

13. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a receiver for receiving electronic signals from the electronic device.

14. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus
5 includes a transmitter for transmitting signals to the electronic device.

15. The apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the apparatus operates at an infrared frequency.

10 16. The apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein the apparatus operates at a radio frequency.

11 17. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the apparatus
includes a text-mode touchpad for instructing a voice recognition system to
15 interpret spoken words literally as text to be inserted into a software application
displayed on a display device by speaking into the microphone.

18. The apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the apparatus
includes a command-mode touchpad for instructing a voice recognition system
20 to interpret spoken words as operating commands for the electronic device or a
software application by speaking into the microphone.

19. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a cursor activator touchpad, whereby touching the cursor activator touchpad activates control of a cursor on a display device.

5 20. The apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein the apparatus includes a motion-sensitive pointer used to move the cursor on the display device.

10 21. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus includes a scroll touchpad for scrolling up and down pages displayed on a display device.

15 22. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus can be used in conjunction with headgear to operate the electronic device.

23. The apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the apparatus can be used in conjunction with a stylus and a touch-sensitive touch screen to operate the electronic device.

20 ~~24.~~ A method for remotely controlling a computer, comprising the step of:

using an apparatus having a plurality of finger-shaped sleeves that are

coupled together and are each worn on different fingers of a hand, the apparatus having a microphone coupled to one of the plurality of sleeves, and the plurality of sleeves each having at least one control element for remotely operating an electronic device using a combination of finger movements and voice commands.

25. The method according to Claim 24, wherein the apparatus transmits and receives signals at infrared frequencies.

26. The method according to Claim 24, wherein the apparatus transmits and receives signals at radio frequencies.

~~27.~~ An apparatus for operating a computer, comprising:
at least one finger shaped sleeve to be worn on a finger of a hand for remotely operating a computer using a combination of voice commands and finger movements, the sleeve including a microphone into which a user speaks voice commands and at least one control element for selectively switching between a text-mode of operation and a command-mode of operation.

28. The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the user operates the computer in the command-mode to issue spoken commands to the computer by speaking into the microphone.

29. The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the user operates the computer in the text-mode to insert spoken text into an application displayed on a display device by speaking into the microphone.

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30. The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the user uses the at least one control element to activate control of a cursor on a display device.

31. The apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the user uses the at least one control element to move the activated cursor.

32. The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the apparatus eliminates the need to use a keyboard to operate the computer.

33. The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the apparatus enables a user to operate the computer from a reclining position.

34. The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the apparatus enables a user to operate the computer from a seated position.

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35. The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the apparatus enables a user to operate the computer from a standing position.

36. The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the apparatus can be used in conjunction with headgear to operate the computer.

5 37. The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the apparatus can be used in conjunction with a stylus and a touch-sensitive touch screen to operate the computer.

10 38. The apparatus according to Claim 27, wherein the apparatus is ergonomically designed to facilitate remote operation of the computer.